

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

COUNTY COURTHOUSE

311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038



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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

April 13, 2010

Douglas J. Wade
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CECW-CE
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Mr. Wade:

The Whatcom County Council adds our strong support to our administration's opposition to changes proposed in Docket Number COE-2010-0007, which would require our county to obtain variances for many miles of very well maintained levees in order to continue to obtain Corp funding.

Not only would the variance process be prohibitively expensive, especially with our economy in dire straits, it is completely unnecessary.

We are concerned that you are considering a one-size-fits-all approach to levee standards when there are very different types of needs, depending on the types of flooding issues. It may be more convenient for federal administrators but will likely compromise our ability to provide adequate flood protection to our citizens.

We do understand money is tight at all levels of government, but we believe there are ways to streamline at the federal level which does not increase local level costs and, in some cases, compromise the integrity of the current system. This proposal could cause unintended consequences at the federal, state and local levels that may result in increased costs for everyone.

Not all flooding is the same and all solutions cannot be the same in order to protect Whatcom County's citizens.

We anxiously await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Crawford".

Sam Crawford, Chair
Whatcom County Council

SC:mb

C: Whatcom County Council
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council
Correspondence

I:\COUNCIL\All Councilmembers, 2010\Army Corp Docket #COE2010-0007.doc